

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06197

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: VISIT OF EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI TO
LONDON

1. ROBIN O'NEILL (ASSISTANT SECRETARY, CABINET OFFICE)
HAS GIVEN US AN ACCOUNT OF EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT
ORTOLI'S VISIT TO LONDON ON MAY 13. ORTOLI MET WITH
PRIME MINISTER WILSON AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT
MINISTERS AND THEIR CONVERSATIONS FOLLOWED PREDICTABLE
LINES'

2. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER HEALEY STATED THE
BRITISH CASE FOR CHANGES IN THE EC BUDGETARY ARRANGE-
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MENTS' MINISTER OF TRADE SHORE DISCUSSED BRITISH

POLITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE COMMUNITY, AND IN PARTICULAR EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE WAYS IN WHICH EC MEMBERSHIP ERODES THE POWERS OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN DISCUSSED THE TIMETABLE FOR EC RENEGOTIATION AND HOW THE WORK SHOULD BE ORGANIZED. THE DISCUSSION WITH WILSON WAS MORE "PHILOSOPHICAL," INCLUDING AN EXCHANGE ON THE GENERAL STATE OF EUROPE.

3. ORTOLI TOLD THE BRITISH MINISTERS THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HE COULD CONFIRM THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD BROUGHT MANY BENEFITS TO FRANCE, AND TO THE OTHER ORIGINAL MEMBER STATES. HE EXPECTED THAT BRITAIN WOULD ENJOY SIMILAR BENEFITS IF IT STAYS IN. ON THE PROBLEM OF THE EC BUDGET, ORTOLI POINTED OUT THAT THE UK MIGHT, OVER TIME, FIND IT EASIER TO CONTRIBUTE ITS SHARE WHEN ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IMPROVES THANKS TO NORTH SEA OIL.

4. IN THE LIGHT OF ORTOLI'S VISIT, O'NEILL BELIEVES THAT THE COMMISSION CAN PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE EC RENEGOTIATION PROCESS, ALTHOUGH IT WILL NEED "A LITTLE PERSUADING."

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